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# EDITORIAL

*NARO WOULD LIKE TO APOLOGISE FOR THE DELAY ON MANY OF OUR MAGAZINES. WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL PROBLEMS WITH THE LACK OF ARTICLES SUBMITTED, HOWEVER HERE IT IS! WE HOPE YOU ENJOY OUR CHRISTMAS EDITION. WE HERE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO THE THE 1997 COPIES OF NARO-MINDED. YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED THAT OUR COVER HAS SLIGHTLY CHANGED, WE PREFER THE NEW TEXT. ANYWAY THIS ISSUE IS PACKED FULL OF REPORTED ANOMALIES. NARO AT THIS CURRENT MOMENT ARE LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US. WE ARE LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD BE TRAINED AS INVESTIGATORS. NARO HAS NOW ITS OWN POSTAL INVESTIGATORS COURSE WHICH IS FREE TO ALL OUR MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED THEN CONTACT:*

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*FINALLY, IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE NARO TO CONSIDER THEIR ARTICLES FOR FORTHCOMING MAGAZINES THEN PLEASE SEND THEM TO ME: STEPHEN MERA, 3, PAIGNTON DRIVE, ASHTON ON MERSEY, SALE, CHESHIRE, M33-5HJ.*

**EDITOR.....STEPHEN MERA.**

## What does 'NARO' stand for ?

NARO was founded in 1963 in response to a growing interest in the UFO phenomenon. Indeed until recently it was called 'MUFORA' - the Manchester UFO Research Association. This was appropriate at a time when UFOs were perceived to be nuts and bolts space craft. In recent years the membership has become all too aware of the psychic dynamics present in many UFO experiences. Entity encounters in particular share a number of common factors with other non-UFO phenomena such as Near Death Experience (NDEs). In recognition of this, MUFORA changed to the Northern Anomalies Research Organisation in January 1994 and became affiliated to the Association for the Scientific Study of Anomalous Phenomena (ASSAP).

NARO is composed of around twenty members from all walks of life, who investigate claims of the paranormal on a part time basis. Membership is strictly regulated and there is currently a waiting list. Only activists need apply, NARO is not a talking shop.

The aims of the organisation include the following:

1. To investigate claims with a view to finding a rational explanation for alleged phenomena where appropriate.
2. To document cases for research purposes.
3. To educate the media and the public in the subtleties and complexities of the 'paranormal'.
4. To convince the scientific establishment of the objective validity of some cases of phenomena.

To a lesser or greater degree these aims are already being achieved. NARO has around 2,000 cases on file and scientists regularly give NARO investigators their expertise. This latter demonstrates a general shift in attitude regarding anomalies that appear to defy 'rational' explanations.

Peter A. Hough - Chairman.

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## Our Senses, Anomalous Experiences and the "Real" World.

BY ANTHONY OBANYE

Very important to our assessment of an anomalous experience and whether we can find a "rational" explanation for it, is our understanding of the purpose of the scientific enterprise. Also important is our understanding of our inherent limitations in being able to construct an accurate picture of reality. The anomalous event that is manifestly physical (e.g. the poltergeist or the UFO) is particularly vulnerable to attack from the radical materialist camp. However, the **ultimate** nature of reality is unlikely to be conditional upon the way in which we choose to investigate or categorize it. It is doubtful that the over-reaching reality of the universe has any respect whatever for "the virtues of simplicity, ontological parsimony, and methodological conservatism" (Clark, 1995) that tend to characterise the "rational" approach to scientific investigation.

In this piece, I am particularly concerned with the subjective aspect of anomalous experiences. For it would seem almost a given that the word "subjective" can be translated to mean "unreal" or "invalid"; But what are the grounds for such an equation? An anomalous experience might even be

dismissed as **merely** subjective, and described as "hallucinatory" or "fantasy" to boot, as if such words have any power beyond betraying the ignorance or lack of knowledge of their user.

My argument is that such words are simply devices that enable the intellectually lazy to "black box" unusual subjective experiences and hide their validity from the unwary and often confused experimenter. On close inspection, however, what has been executed by the "rational" observer is a sleight of hand that even he may not be aware of. By having something dismissed as "fantasy" or "imagination" we are expected to be convinced that the anomalous experience has no reality whatever; But why should **not** being a real event even be an option? The rather dubious assumption behind such a belief is that we **know** what it is for something not to be real, that we know what the meaning of reality is? By **conventional** definition, for something to be considered real, it has to be measurable by scientific means.

I want to argue that the key to these issues has a great deal to do with the purpose of the scientific enterprise and the nature (or the understanding

of the nature) of consciousness. I will lay my cards on the table. I am both a dualist (in that I believe that consciousness is a **fundamental** in its own right, independent of fundamentals such as matter and space-time. A fundamental entity is not to be reduced to anything simpler, but instead is to be regarded as basic) and a panpsychist (that is, I believe that **all** matter has an associated experiential aspect). I also hold with the pragmatic view of the scientific enterprise. The atomic physicist **Niels Bohr**, in his book **Atomic Theory and the Description of Nature** (Stapp, 1993) aptly expressed this view. He said:-

**In our description of nature the purpose is not to disclose the real essence of phenomena but only to track down as far as possible relations between the multifold aspect of our experience.**

By "our experience" I do not simply read our mundane and everyday experience. All of our experiences must be referred to, and that includes both anomalous and subjective experiences in general, whether they are regarded as anomalous or not. **Charles Tart**, Professor of Psychology at the University of California, outlined a definition of



science which is particularly apt in the investigation of anomalous experiences (Tart, 1995), and which I think, is in accord with the pragmatic view espoused by Bohr. It also seems to be a restatement of the "radical empiricism" espoused by the nineteenth century American philosopher, **William James** (James, 1912). Tart says:-

**The approach I take here is empirical and scientific, rather than philosophical. By "science" I mean an approach to understand all of reality that puts absolute and primary emphasis on observables, whether these observables are external or internal to the observer, and secondary emphasis on conceptual understanding. That is, creating an elegant and logical understanding of something, a theory, is fine, but if that understanding does not account for all of the relevant observations, both postdictively and predictively, that's too bad for the theory, not the observations. My understanding of scientific method, and some important aspects of its application to the investigation of altered states of consciousness, has been described in detail elsewhere (Tart, 1972). This approach is hardly unique to me: except for the observation of how many "scientists" there seem to be who subvert or refuse to look at data which does not accord with their theoretical**

**convictions, I had always thought this was the generally agreed-upon definition of what constituted science.**

It is quite reasonable to assume that our experiences represent but a tiny subset of the totality of reality. Generally, an object or a process is regarded as real when it is measurable with a recording device. However, this relegates reality to the status of hostage to both the current level and nature of current technology, as well as the particular intellectual bias of its host society. It would mean that for most of our history, the planets beyond Saturn were not real, for example. I would like to adopt the particularly cogent ontology developed by William James. This scheme consists of three parts. These are what he termed **private concepts** (subjective experiences), **sense objects** (sense realities that are independent of the individual) and **hypersensible realities** (realities that exist independently of all human thinkers). It might seem natural to view these entities as forming a linear progression such that private concepts and hypersensible realities would be posed at opposite ends of a spectrum of reality. In such a scheme, subjective life could only be influenced by those sense objects closest to it: the man might experience a feeling of wonder (a private concept) as he watches a science programme on television (a sense object) in which an astrophysicist ponders the type of realities (hypersensible realities) that may

have existed before the Big Bang. In this scheme, however, human scientific endeavour could convert more and more of hypersensible reality into sense objects. It might be more correct to see the three parts of this ontology as the three sides of a triangle. In this scheme subjective experience is impinged upon directly by sense objects, and **generally** indirectly (unconsciously) by hypersensible realities. A child might become aware of such hypersensible realities in his / her dream life perhaps, or in the form of an "imaginary" playmate. What I would like to suggest, in the spirit of pragmatism, is that any **genuine** anomalous experience, be it an objective event (e.g. a UFO caught on camera) or an entirely subjective experience (e.g. a premonition) be regarded as a **direct** (if distorted?) representation in the subjective experience of the individual of potentially useful information emanating from the realm of hypersensible realities. (Information is all that can be definitely said to exist beyond our conscious experience of sense objects and private concepts; see **Chalmers (1995)** and **Wheeler (1990)** for discussions about the possible fundamental status of information). On the other hand, in the case of the recorded anomalous event, the occurrence represents an automatic conversion of some aspect within the realm of hypersensible realities to a sense object.

It is likely that the vast proportion of hypersensible realities will never become sense objects.

There is an obvious limit to what can be converted in this way. As human beings, we must be aware that our sensory apparatus is limited. By their nature our sense organs are unable to provide us with a complete and undistorted view of the universe. We are quite happy to accept that fish cannot appreciate sound (not in the way that we do at least), or that rabbits cannot see in colour. We will concede that dogs have better sense of smell than we do without, perhaps, really appreciating the significance of that fact. Instead, we continue to assume that the human brain brings to its owner an accurate picture of the world. Through the act of perception we learn to believe that grass really is green, and that the sky really is blue; that fire is hot, and water wet and often cold. I would agree that it is the **rational** thing to accept such observations as fact. For by accepting these observations as such we promote our survival as a species, and we are able to make predictions and effect a particular degree of control over our environment and do good pragmatic technology. The pursuance of science, however, involves more than simply collecting and characterising experience. It is true, according to the pragmatic view of scientific endeavour, that it is scientifically non-productive to be concerned with those hypersensible realities that our

sense organs are impregnable to. However, this is assuredly not the same thing as the outright dismissal of "ghosts" and out of body experiences as mere fantasy. For both these things are part of the webwork of "our multifold experience" and as scientists we should seek out the ways in which such entities might fit into or around our other less exotic experiences. To the die-hard materialist, the word "hallucination" will continue to have attractive appeal. When we realise, however, that intrinsically there is nothing that has any colour, texture, sound, taste or smell (perhaps even our **experience** of space and time is also a clever conjuring trick) in the world "out there", and when we realise that the beautiful sunsets, the rolling landscapes and billowing clouds are all translations of invisible and silent entities within the realm of James' hypersensible realities into the conscious experience of the observer, we may begin to use words such as "fantasy", "dream" and "hallucination" with more understanding and care. For surely our whole experiential world of sense objects is itself a sophisticated and practical "fantasy" engineered for the sole purpose of survival and reproduction on that part of the planet where we exist. To "black box" anything as "imaginary" does little to advance the cause of pragmatic science, but keeps us unnecessarily and fearfully shackled in a very narrow area. What we call the reality.

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A. OBANYE.



# THE MOOR'S OF MOSSLEY

BY PHIL BRADBURY

This case was referred to me by John Stiles of the SPR, who had been contacted by the witness who lived on the outskirts of Manchester. After an initial telephone call I visited the family home with investigators, Stephen Mera and Andrew Blunn.

The witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Moor and their 18 year old daughter resided at the property. We also interviewed the next door neighbour who also had allegedly witnessed strange goings on.

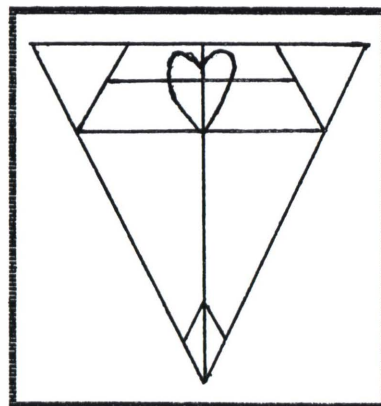
Both stories from either witness seemed to relate to each other. Strange unaccountable knocking noises being heard at various times of day. Also the two family pets were barking at the wall, which seemed to happen periodically.

The next door neighbour (Lynn) has a two year old daughter called Hannah who has also allegedly been observed talking to the wall. When asked she replied that she was talking to the old man. There has also been a spate of incidents, all one-off in their own right but possibly all forming part of the same phenomenon.

The stop on the end of the wooden curtain pole appeared to have fallen off unseen of its own accord several times. A bedroom window, previously thought to be jammed shut, was found to have been opened one afternoon during the summer. Mr. Moor had on one occasion sensed a presence behind him whilst walking down the stairs and felt it tripping him up and Mrs. Moor herself reported having seen an apparition, a silhouette in the shape of a tall man, through the frosted glass door in the lounge leading out into the hallway.

Curtains are also thought to have been opened or closed unaided and small household objects (e.g. keys) have seemed to go missing, however, Mrs. Moor is prepared to concede that these latter two instances may be due to forgetfulness rather than anything more mysterious.

All of these events had occurred over a steady period of time since January of this year, two months after the family moved in, during which time they have undertaken a variety of renovations. One of these involved stripping the wallpaper in the main bedroom, this revealed a silhouette scraped into the bare wall almost exactly resembling the front cover of a book which was left near by. Removal of the lounge carpet also revealed a strange painting.



This strange painted diagram was moved underneath the fireplace and protruding outwards some two and a half feet. A multitude of colours had been used and a heart was situated in the middle of it. This discovery was the one which prompted Mrs. Moor to seek outside advice, worried that it

may have been used in some kind of occult ceremony, but no significance can be placed on it so far. There are no known symbols that resemble the one at the Moor's house.

Second or third hand information from longer standing residents of the area suggested that the neighbours house (Lynn's) in which she, her partner and three children have lived in only since June 95, had once been subject of a visit from local clergy. However, my enquiries to the local churches proved fruitless.

Father Peters at St. James (Catholic) church was quite helpful but could not recall a particular visit to Lynn's current address, which he thought he was bound to do if it had been to try and persuade an unwelcome presence to depart. On the other hand, the vicar of All Saints (C.O.E) could best be described as politely dismissive.

My most recent conversation with Mrs. Moor was by telephone on October 16th, when she reported that the knocks and bangs were still recurring on a regular basis as was the late night barking by the dogs, the latter almost nightly but with occasional and much welcome breaks!

Mrs. Moor has been keeping a diary of notable occurrences since our visit and is shortly to attempt to remove the lounge floor painting. Unfortunately she has reported that the situation appears to be having an adverse effect on Lynn's family next door. Lynn appears to have become prone in recent weeks to depression, emotional outbursts and fits of temper which seem to be uncharacteristic. Having initially regarded the strange goings on as a matter for curiosity.

Mrs. Moor is also in the process of trying to track down at least the names of previous occupants of her home and next door through friends in the family. For now we can only wait to hear from them.

# LANCASHIRE HOTCH BOTCH

Andrew Blunn reviews the recent C.I.A (Conspiracies, Implants, Aliens) conference held by LAPIS which proved more entertaining than promised...but for all the wrong reasons....

On the weekend of November 16th / 17th, the coastal town of Lytham St. Anne's played host to the Lancashire Aerial Phenomena Investigation Society and their International UFO Conference. It would have been more apt to have titled it as Transatlantic as all the speakers were either British or American.

The event got off to a bad start with Marcus Allen, Chief Executive of Nexus Magazine (UK) discussing not surprisingly the subject of conspiracies. Allen argues that it is not a matter of belief but of evidence - which in his opinion is overwhelming. He was eager to point out that we are all supposedly surrounded by conspiracies everyday, examples given ranged from irradiated food (?) to traffic speed cameras! The main sub-topic of his talk however, was the rather trendy subject of the Apollo moon landings. Interestingly the Moon would be the subject of another talk the following day. Allen didn't say whether he believed that the Apollo Moon landings were faked, what he did say was that they may have indeed gone to the moon but that the photographs

released by NASA were not the genuine photos. Allen argues that there are optical anomalies concerning certain photos allegedly taken during the landings. He cites examples on photos where shadows appear to vary in length and angle with respect to each other - all the shadows should be parallel to each other. He also argues that the photos taken by the astronauts could not have been produced using the chest mounted cameras that were used because the perspective shows that the camera was at eye level when some of the pictures were taken. Allen claims that someone has been to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington and measured the hatch that the Astronauts used to enter and exit the Lunar Module. He claims that the hatch is too small for an Astronaut in full kit to get through. I find this hard to believe. I think that if NASA had gone to all that trouble they would surely have got that one right! I found it hard to believe Allen simply because he seems to have a lack of a basic understanding of the laws of Physics - a trait that seems to be rife amongst so-called researchers into the

UFO subject. For example Allen argues that the Lunar Module would have made large holes in the Lunar surface on landing because ".....it weighs 20 tonnes.." - well no Mr. Allen it doesn't weigh 20 tonnes on the Lunar surface since the Moon's gravitational field is approximately 1/6 that of the Earth. He also states that the Astronauts would have been killed by cosmic radiation present in space. Am I right in thinking that Astronauts suits have built in shielding to protect them? The whole question regarding the Apollo moon landings was recently explored in an on-going article by David Percy in the 'Fortean Times' the popular journal of strange phenomena. Outlining specific problems with the photos that had been well researched and were not based on pseudo - scientific knowledge.

The next speaker was American UFOlogist Michael Lindemann. The subject of his talk was the "....possible link with covert weapon development and Social policy...." The main thrust of his argument was that very soon there will be a big announcement by world leaders regarding the



subject of UFOs. Lindermann sees the large amount of media interest in UFOs as proof that we being prepared for the **truth**. On the other hand Lindermann states that it could be that they are all trying to confuse us with disinformation. I think the reason for media interest in the subject is due to the popularisation of the paranormal thanks to shows such as the X-files. I think the media have simply **jumped on the bandwagon** and are exploiting the current public interest. At the end of Lindermann's talk a lady in the audience asked him "...what can I do to protect my child from being abducted?..." This just about summed up the type of audience.

British researcher and NARO reports co-ordinator Jenny Randles spoke next on the history of UFOlogy from a British perspective. She spoke of well known British cases such as Bentwaters and Lakenheath as well as the alleged Rendlesham forest incident. Randles also spoke of the phenomenon of **Men In Black (MIB)**, speculating on their origin and suggesting that they are not Alien but part of an official government organisation. Jenny was a lot more sceptical than of late, being eager to point out that it is up to all of us to make our minds up based on the **evidence**.

The fourth speaker of the day was American researcher

Derrel Sims area of research is the abduction phenomenon. Sims is known as the Alien Hunter in the states and is convinced that people **are** being abducted by aliens and that it isn't a psychological / sociological experience. Indeed Sims himself claims to have been abducted. Sims was kind enough to bring 15 of the **alien implants** with him which he was displaying on a stall near the main entrance. I'm sad to say that there was a large crowd gathered there all day. Sims claims these implants are alien devices which attach themselves to the central nervous system. He even speculates on the possible uses of such devices. What I find even more remarkable than this was that abduction **researchers** are now arguing over what the function of these devices are? One might believe that they are remote cameras which allow the aliens to see what the humans are seeing while another may think that they are mind control devices! Sims claims that by using hypnotic regression - a method which we have found to be unreliable - he can undermine the **aliens** attempts to abduct the human by implanting (pardon the pun) the suggestion that the next time 'they' come the abductee will resist. This is because the aliens **supposedly** use hypnosis themselves to induce paralysis in their victims! Sims 'pigeon holes' his abductees into two categories, abductees (i.e. people who have had malevolent contact with the aliens) and contactees (people

who have had friendly contact with the aliens). Remarkably he also speculated on the IQ of the aliens - putting it at around the 80 mark. His proof of this is that the aliens often put back people in the wrong locations.

Nick Pope formerly of the MOD office which handles civilian complaints of RAF flybys and UFO reports from the public. He was the final speaker of the day, arguing that UFOs **are** of defence significance and they are intelligently controlled by extra-terrestrials. Pope outlined a report made when a squadron of Tornado jet aircraft were returning across the North sea when they were allegedly overtaken by an unidentified object. Martin Redmond MP asked the Secretary of State for Defence what his department's conclusion had been. He was told that no conclusion had been reached. Pope is convinced that there is no government cover up - something that I agree with but for different reasons than Pope. He cites his reason as being that if a secret government department was researching the UFO subject then he would have had to know about it. I am of the opinion that the government know as much as we do.

The second day started promisingly with Simon Lewis of the North Lancashire UFO Investigation Group, NLU-FOIG (where do they think up

these names!). His talk was on the subject of top secret aircraft and the possible link with reports of UFOs. It started well with Lewis outlining the early flying wing experiments of the late 1940s. He showed the USAF experimental saucer shaped craft that was ultimately unsuccessful. Our first hint of trouble came when Lewis asked the question "...why do Stealth-fighters have to have markings on the side when they are not seen by anyone at high altitudes...?". Lewis was obviously trying to imply that the reason was so that the aliens don't shoot them down! I think it is most likely, Mr Lewis that the reason for this is that the USAF would like to be able to identify its own aircraft! It really started to go wrong however when the dreaded **moon slide** appeared on the screen. The slide in question showed an area of the lunar landscape taken through a high powered telescope, the area was saturated with craters and rugged terrain. Lewis claimed that if you looked hard enough you could see...a face! This statement raised a few guffaws even from this gullible audience. After this response he adopted a more sceptical approach by saying "...I'm not saying this is a crystal ice palace but...". On a final note on this talk he displayed a blueprint of an unknown object, which could have been anything. He seemed to be under the impression that the

impression that this was an aircraft design because in the drawing was a triangular shaped component which Lewis thought was **strange**. What are you trying to pull Mr. Lewis, the wool over our eyes by any chance?

After I'd stopped laughing it was the turn of Doris Sims to talk about the subject of handwriting analysis and how it can be applied to alleged abductees.

Michael Lindemann concluded the previous days talk with a continuation of his conspiracy

"....You're a shit on the underpants of Ufology..."

Joseph Dorman to Sale Solicitor Harry Harris.

theme, extending it to cover the population explosion as well as environmental problems that this planet is experiencing.

BUFORA director Philip Mantle was next to speak on the Ray Santilli autopsy footage. He put the case for and against the film as well as providing some humour in the form of an Argentinian and German attempt to fake an **autopsy**.

At this point we were rudely interrupted by Sale Solicitor Harry Harris, a strong advocate of the alien abduction theory. Apparently against

the wishes of the conference organisers, and supposedly with the permission of three **renegade** LAPIS members who were sympathetic to his cause, Harris stepped onto the stage. He instantaneously launched into an attack of well known psychologist Dr. Susan Blackmore and her theories regarding so called abductions. This was met with cries of "...get off Harris..." and some booing. Harris invited his critics to step forward and speak to him face to face. At this point one Joseph Dorman stepped forward to say that the reason no one would speak was that they were frightened of being sued. Dorman then advanced aggressively towards the stage calling Harris "...a shit on the underpants of Ufology...". In the end he had to be restrained. Harris spoke with myself and Mervyn Gale as we had asked him about his qualification to speak on the subject to which he replied that he employs quite rightly the services of experts. Harris said that someone had obviously coloured our opinion of him - well after that fiasco our minds were made up.

On the whole the conference was entertaining if only for the wild theories and pseudo scientific beliefs put forward. Unfortunately the lack of stimulating debate and the 'one sidedness' of the speakers meant that all I got out of it was food poisoning.....



# DESERT SKIES AND PORKY PIES

**Mervyn Gale asks questions about the facts surrounding one of ufologys most talked about cases.**

*"I have to say that most things I have seen or heard Marcel say about the case have been credible, and I have no difficulty accepting his word."*

So says Jenny Randles in her 1995 book "UFO Retrievals". Most ufologists would heartily concur; and in America the man is venerated as a kind of secular saint. Perhaps this is not surprising, given the frailty of the rest of the Roswell legend. Stanton Friedman and Kevin Randle, the two most prominent researchers, now spend most of their time at each others throats, unable to agree about the site of the crash, or even how many craft were involved. Various star witnesses have been proved to be liars, like Gerald Anderson, or non-existent, like the nurse friend of undertaker Glenn Dennis. Others seem to alter their testimony almost every time they are interviewed, such as Lydia Sleppy, the radio station operative who eventually claimed the FBI cut off her broadcast.

Then again, we have the curious case of the archaeologist who arrived at the crash site, eventually 'identified' as Dr. Currey Holden by Randle and Schmitt. This man was

very old and "easily confused" according to his family; so his obliging conformation of his involvement sounds suspiciously like a vulnerable old gentleman telling persistent (but nonetheless naive) researchers exactly what they wanted to hear. His diary places him in Lubbock, Texas at the time. In almost half a century he had never mentioned this historic interlude to either his wife or daughter.

'Barney' Barnett, the civilian engineer always roped into their accounts by Roswell storytellers, also had an alibi. His diary places him 200 miles away, in a place called Pie Town; but he was never more than a hearsay source anyway, having somewhat inconsiderately died before researchers could trouble him for his first hand testimony.

Glenn Dennis, the well preserved mortician so indispensable to so many second-rate documentaries, happens to own a lucrative UFO museum in Roswell, as well as a similar establishment in neighbouring Lincoln, which caters to the Billy the Kid trade. Let us hope that his unverifiable recollections of his untraceable girlfriend keep him

comfortable in his declining years.

So, then, let us return to the impeccable Major Marcel, the fons et origo of the legend that swept the West. Inevitably, this will mean a close consideration of his unearthly spoils - the 'wreckage'.

When first interviewed by Stanton Friedman and others in 1978-79, Jesse Marcel made various claims about his career. Until December 1995, these claims were all taken on trust, although it should be pointed out that one of the men who interviewed him was called Bob Pratt - sadly appropriate, as things have turned out. Last year, a researcher called Todd consulted Marcel's official service record. We will now examine Major Marcel's career in the light of the information gleaned from that source.

Marcel told ufologists he had flown in combat as a waist gunner, bombardier, and pilot. His service record shows he was an intelligence observer without aircrew training or experience. He claimed to have been awarded five air medals for a corresponding number of kills, whereas he was only given two, and these were just for flying the requisite number of missions. He further claimed to have been the sole survivor of a shot down bomber, but there is a dearth of evidence to back him up. He claimed to have a Physics degree from George Washington University; in fact, he had no such qualification, and was

not a graduate at all.

Finally, and crucially, he claimed to have specialised knowledge or detailed memories of weather observation and radar tracking devices. He apparently had no such expertise, and was certainly not handed the plum job of helping draft Harry Truman's 1949 announcement of the Soviet A-bomb-test which was not made on the radio in any event!

The steadfast and valiant career officer who gambled all with an honest press release in the far off summer of '47 is now proven to be a congenital liar. Either that, or the writers who have striven so assiduously to create his legend are congenital liars on his behalf, and that is just as bad.

Does the case collapse without Marcel? Sheridan Cavitt, the Counter Intelligence Officer who examined Brazel's wreckage on site said that "...it never crossed my mind that it could be anything other than a radio sonde...". There was no gouge in the ground, and the debris covered an area "about twenty feet square". Researchers like Randle and Schmitt have branded him a liar to his face. Presumably their problem is that the only living eyewitness to the crash-site so utterly repudiates their version of events.

One might ask why the famous 'Roswell Daily Record' story refers to the find as a mere 'instrument' rather than something more spectacular. In any case, Brazel himself could well have been confabulating when he told his family the stuff he

found was exotic. This was, after all, a man who was working in an isolated place who heard a loud bang one evening, and subsequently found something that puzzled him. (This was June 14th.) Eventually, he gathered samples and made a bundle; by now almost three weeks had passed. He went into Corona to sell wool; Roswell was not visited until a further couple of days had passed; this was plenty of time to down a few beers, and maybe to cogitate upon the wild stories of 'flying saucers' that had swept the nation since Arnold's sighting, and which he now heard for the first time...In any event, his leisurely response to his find does not betoken a man beside himself with excitement. By the time the report was made to the sheriff, he probably realised he could parley his metallic cloth and coloured balsa wood into something much more interesting.

At this point Marcel takes up the cudgels on his behalf. On his own initiative-and the newspaper account is specific about this-he then issues a statement to the press. Marcel, who was, according to Peter Brookesmith, an early devotee of the extraterrestrial hypothesis even before the 'crash', manages to namecheck himself twice in the brief, gleeful text. The debris has now been transmuted into a 'flying disc' in the crucible of Marcel's epic imagination. We should

expect this alchemy from a man who saw himself in terms of grandiose lies.

However, up the chain of command, General Roger M. Ramey proves less susceptible to the ETH than his excitable subordinate, and famously 'Empties the Roswell Saucer', as the 'Record' memorably put it.

Irving Newton, the young meteorology officer who saw the debris, had this to say about Marcel's emotional investment in the story:-

*"While I was examining the debris, Major Marcel was picking up pieces of the target sticks and trying to convince me that some notations on the sticks were alien writing...he did not convince me...he chased me round the room"*

The famous invulnerability of the metal found was probably grafted onto the rumours courtesy of Silas Newton and Leo Ge Bauer, the two con-men who spread rumours around the South-West from 1949 onwards. They were selling a gold-prospecting device they claimed to have 'back-engineered' from a crashed saucer they had found. By the early fifties, when the families of Roswell were being regaled with stories of the 509th's red-letter day, the two narratives were inextricably intertwined.

What are we left with? A shifting cavalcade of geriatric secondary sources whose vague recollections of glamorous and 'secret' events have become an integral part of the



social and economic fabric of their unremarkable little town. They can, perhaps, be forgiven for hoping things remain this way the next time an apple-cheeked young ufologist knocks on the door and asks them: "Tell me again why Daddy was so excited all those years ago?"

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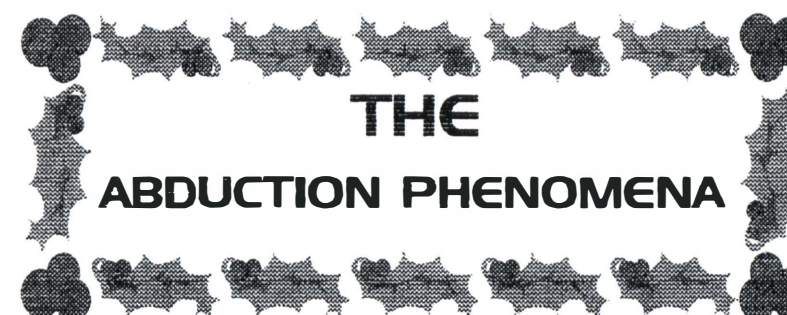
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THE WORD ABDUCT MEANS TO BE TAKEN AGAINST YOUR WILL AND THE FIRST RECORDED ALIEN ABDUCTION TOOK PLACE IN ENGLAND IN 1975. MANY PROFESSIONAL BODIES ARE CONVINCED THAT THE PUBLIC ARE NOT FABRICATING THEIR REPORTS BUT ARE REPORTING AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES. RIGHT BACK TO BIBLICAL TIMES AND ONWARD THERE ARE REFERENCES TO ABDUCTIONS IN EVERY CULTURE AND TRADITION. MANY BELIEVE THAT THESE EXPERIENCES ARE IN NO WAY ATTRIBUTABLE TO PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS AND AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE THOSE WHO DO. REPORTS COME FROM PEOPLE WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND NO APPARENT SIMILARITIES THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THIS MYSTERIOUS PHENOMENON.

THE ABDUCTION SCENARIO ITSELF USUALLY TAKES PLACE WHILST OBSERVING A (C.E.3) CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE THIRD KIND, BUT NOT AS A MATTER OF COURSE. THERE ARE CASES WHERE A PERSON OR PERSONS ARE TAKEN FROM THEIR BEDS DURING THE NIGHT. IN THE CASE OF A WITNESS EXPERIENCING A (C.E.3) THEY TEND TO BE AWARE OF A TIME LAPSE OR MEMORY LOSS. THEY THEN TRY TO RETRACE WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND USUALLY COME UP AGAINST A BRICK WALL. EVENTUALLY THEY MAY APPROACH A PSYCHO-ANALYST WHO SPECIALISES IN REGRESSIVE HYPNOTHERAPY TO TRY AND REGAIN THEIR MEMORY OF EVENTS THAT MAY HAVE TAKEN PLACE. HYPNOSIS IS UNRELIABLE AND NOT A DEEP SLEEP OR TRANCE. IT IS HOWEVER, A MEANS OF CONCENTRATION AND RELAXATION. SOMETHING WE CAN ONLY SEEM TO DO DURING THIS STAGE. WHILST UNDER HYPNOSIS YOU ARE FULLY AWARE, AWAKE AND CONSCIOUS OF THE SURROUNDINGS YOU ARE

IN. YOU ARE ALSO AWARE OF THE PERSONS PRESENT. THERE ARE VARYING DEGREES OF HYPNOSIS. FOR EXAMPLE, HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE WATCHED A MOVING SCENE IN A FILM AND BECOME EMOTIONAL? THIS IS THE SIMPLEST FORM OF HYPNOSIS. PROBLEMS ARISE WHEN THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN THE ABDUCTEE EXPERIENCES FALSE MEMORY SYNDROME CAUSED BY LITERATURE THEY MAY HAVE READ, LEADING QUESTIONS FROM THE HYPNOTHERAPIST, TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMMES ETC. THE HYPNOTHERAPIST SHOULD EXPLAIN THAT HYPNOSIS IS A RELAXED STATE OF ALTERED CONSCIOUSNESS THAT HELPS YOU CONCENTRATE ON A PARTICULAR MEMORY WITHOUT THE NORMAL EVERY DAY DISTRACTIONS. IT IS ALSO EXPLAINED THAT YOU CAN FABRICATE OR ACT OUT ANY SCENARIO YOU WISH. (THIS IS SOMETHING THE HYPNOTHERAPIST HAS NO CONTROL OVER) ALSO THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE VERY OPEN TO SUGGESTION. THIS IS HOW STAGE SHOWS ARE SET UP. THE MEMORIES THAT HAVE BEEN LOST TEND TO BE TYPICAL IN ABDUCTEES WORLD WIDE.

WHILST OBSERVING A CRAFT OF SOME KIND THE PERSON INVOLVED WILL EXPERIENCE SEVERAL CHANGES, A FLOATING SENSATION, THEIR MIND BECOMING BLANK, OUT OF CONTROL - PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY, IMMOBILITY. BEINGS THEN TEND TO APPROACH AND MANIPULATE THE ABDUCTEES TOWARDS THE CRAFT. THEY THEN EXPERIENCE BEING IN STRANGE SURROUNDINGS, PRESUMABLY THE CRAFTS INTERIOR. THE ABDUCTEE IS NOT USUALLY AWARE OF HOW THEY ENTERED THE CRAFT. IN SOME CASES THE ABDUCTEE IS GIVEN SOME SORT OF PHYSICAL AND / OR MENTAL EXAMINATION. (NOT ALWAYS!). FEMALE ABDUCTEES ARE SOMETIMES SHOWN 'BABIES OR SMALL CHILDREN' WHICH THEY FEEL ARE THEIR OWN. THE EXAMINATIONS

USUALLY INCLUDE SPERM EXTRACTION FROM MEN, OVA REMOVAL FROM WOMEN, INSERTION OF NEEDLES, SKIN SAMPLES, HAIR SAMPLES AND GENERAL MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

ABDUCTEES OFTEN CLAIM THAT SOME SORT OF DEVICE HAS BEEN IMPLANTED SOMEWHERE ON THEIR PERSON. THESE ARE CALLED 'IMPLANTS'. HOWEVER, I HAVE NOT YET FOUND ANY TANGIBLE EVIDENCE TO SAY THIS IS TRUE. THEY OFTEN FEEL THAT THIS MAY BE SOME SORT OF TAGGING OR TRACKING DEVICE. ANOTHER PROCEDURE TAKES PLACE ON OCCASION WHICH ABDUCTEES GENERALLY REFER TO AS A MIND SCAN. A TALLER, MORE AUTHORITATIVE BEING LOOKS DEEP INTO THE ABDUCTEES EYES. THE ABDUCTEE USUALLY DESCRIBE THIS AS AN INTENSE FEELING AS IF THE BEING IS MAKING THEM FEEL DIFFERENT EMOTIONS. PROBABLY TO EXPERIENCE THOSE EMOTIONS FOR THEMSELVES AND TO SEXUALLY AROSE MEN FOR THE EXTRACTION OF SPERM. THERE ARE ALSO A SMALL AMOUNT OF CASES WHEN THE ABDUCTEE COMMUNICATES AND THE DISCUSSION OF THE ECOLOGY OF OUR PLANET FOLLOWS. ONCE THE BEINGS HAVE CONCLUDED THEIR EXAMINATIONS THE ABDUCTEE IS USUALLY RETURNED TO THE PLACE OF ORIGIN. ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE.

IN THE CASE OF BEDROOM ABDUCTIONS, THE SCENARIO IS GENERALLY THE SAME APART FROM THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCE I.E. (PLACE OF ORIGIN). THERE IS A THEORY THAT MAY ACCOUNT FOR SOME SO CALLED BEDROOM ABDUCTIONS. TEMPORAL LOBE EPILEPSY (T.L.E). AFFECTS A SMALL NUMBER OF THE POPULOUS AT SOME TIME OR ANOTHER. THE CONDITION IS USUALLY BROUGHT ABOUT DURING A STRESSFUL PERIOD IN THE PERSONS LIFE FOR EXAMPLE, BEREAVEMENT, DIVORCE AND OTHER STRESSFUL EXPERIENCES. A PERSON WILL WAKE UP DURING THE NIGHT BEING UNABLE TO MOVE OR SPEAK. THIS IS KNOWN AS 'PARALYSIS'. THEY WILL OFTEN SEE GHOST LIKE FIGURES AROUND THEM AND FEEL SOMETHING TOUCHING THEM. THIS OBVIOUSLY SENDS THE PERSON INTO A COMPLETE PANIC BUT THEY ARE HELPLESS TO DO ANYTHING. ALSO THE PERSON MAY THEN DRIFT BACK TO



SLEEP AND WAKE UP AGAIN IN A SIMILAR STATE AND LEAVE THE ROOM. WHEN THEY DO THIS THEY OFTEN NOTICE THERE SURROUNDINGS TO HAVE CHANGED SLIGHTLY IN SOME SORT OF FORM SUCH AS, THINGS WILL APPEAR TO HAVE MOVED FROM THEIR NORMAL PLACE. DOORS AND WINDOWS WILL SEEM TO BE OFFSET. THE PERSON WAKES IN THE MORNING HAVING NO EXPLANATION FOR THAT EVENINGS EVENTS AND FEELING LIKE THEY HAVE BEEN INVADDED IN SOME WAY.

SOME RECENT RESEARCH SHOWS THAT A FEMALE ABDUCTEE IS LESS LIKELY TO HAVE IMAGINED HER EXPERIENCE THAN A MALE AS FEMALES HAVE LESS IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES ANYWAY. THERE DOES SEEM TO BE A PATTERN IN ABDUCTEES. ONE IS THAT THEY ALL SEEM TO BE CREATIVE IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER AND ALL SEEM TO HAVE SLIGHTLY ABOVE AVERAGE INTELLIGENCE. HOWEVER THIS COULD BE PURE CHANCE AND IT SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY WITHOUT FURTHER SCIENTIFIC STUDY.

ALL THIS INFORMATION IS GENERALLY FROM INCIDENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HOWEVER. THE ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE IN THIS COUNTRY DIFFERS, AS SO DOES OTHERS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES. THIS SEEMS TO INDICATE THAT THIS PHENOMENA DIFFERS AS DO CULTURES. MANY BRITISH ABDUCTEES RECALL ENCOUNTERING ANGEL LIKE FIGURES, HUMANOID FIGURES, ROBOTS, GIANT BEINGS WITH DIFFERING COLOURED SUITS, SMALL GREEN BEINGS AND EVEN THE ODD TYPICAL GREY ENTITY WHICH AGAIN IS MOSTLY WITNESSED IN THE STATES. THE BRITISH GREY IS NOT OFTEN SEEN TO BE THAT COLOUR. MANY ABDUCTEES DESCRIBE THEM AS YELLOW, BROWN OR CREAM COLOURED. WHERE IN AMERICA AND OTHER COUNTRIES THE GREY IS THE MOST PRONOUNCED AND SOME OF THE ABDUCTEES RECALL AN INTERACTION WHICH STRETCHES BACK TO THEIR KIN AND BEYOND. THERE IS ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ABDUCTION CASES IN ENGLAND WHICH FOLLOW THE TYPICAL AMERICAN ABDUCTION PHENOMENA WITH COMPLEMENTARY LITTLE GREY



DURING AN EXAMINATION THE ABDUCTEE RECALLS WHAT THE BEINGS LOOKED LIKE...."THE TALL ONES..."

MEN OR SHOULD I SAY (GREYS!). THERE ARE HOWEVER, SOME CHARACTERISTICS SHARED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. SOME ABDUCTEES REMEMBER ENCOUNTERING ANIMALS SUCH AS, DOGS, HORSES, CATS ETC. ONLY LATER TO REVEAL THEMSELVES AS A STEREO TYPICAL ENTITY. OF COURSE THIS MAKES YOU SWAY TOWARDS A PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDER OR EXPERIENCE, BUT IS THERE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROVE EITHER THEORIES. NO QUITE. WE DO HOWEVER, COME UP WITH INTERESTING CASES WHERE THE ABDUCTEE SHOWS SIGNS OF PHYSICAL INJURY, BUT AGAIN IS THERE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO SAY THAT

HE OR SHE HAD BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSED BY THESE SO CALLED ENTITIES.....I DOUBT IT. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER THE ABDUCTION PHENOMENA SEEMS TO BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IN EVERY CULTURE. AS IN AFRICA ENTITIES ARE DESCRIBED AS THE TYPICAL GREY BUT WITH LONG DARK HAIR. AGAIN VERY SIMILAR WITH A SLIGHT DIFFER FROM THE GREY WE HAVE ALL GROWN TO LOVE. ALSO MANY ABDUCTEES IN MEXICO AND SURROUNDING CITIES SEEM TO BE ROUGH HANDLE BY THE BEINGS AND NOT TREATED WITH ANY RESPECT. MANY ABDUCTEES DESCRIBE FEELING LIKE CATTLE. WHERE THE BRITISH ABDUCTEES SEEM TO BE HANDLED WITH MORE COMPASSION. MEXICANS SEEM TO BE DRAGGED OFF KICKING AND SCREAMING WHERE BRITISH ABDUCTEES SEEM TO GO WILLINGLY AS IF THEY ARE GIVEN THE SUGGESTION TO CO-OPERATE. SO RESEARCHERS NOW BELIEVE THAT THESE ENTITIES USE HYPNOSIS THEMSELVES. AGAIN I ASK TO SEE THE EVIDENCE FOR SUCH AN ARGUMENT.

GOING BACK THROUGH THE CENTURIES THERE ARE TALES OF FAIRY FOLK SNATCHING CHILDREN AND SWAPPING THEM. THESE WERE GENERALLY KNOWN AS CHANGLINGS AND MANY AN UGLY BABY WAS KILLED. ALSO THEY WERE SAID TO BE CAPABLE OF ENCHANTING ADULTS. AS YOU MAY SEE THESE FOLK TALES ARE ON A PARALLEL WITH TODAY'S MODERN U.F.O. ABDUCTIONS. IT COULD BE LOOKED UPON AS IF THE ABDUCTION PHENOMENA IS PROGRESSIVE AS IS EVERYDAY LIFE OR (MANKIND). NOT ONLY THIS BUT THE PROGRESSIVE CHANGE IN U.F.O. SIGHTINGS. MORE AND MORE WITNESSES ARE DESCRIBING SEEING TRIANGULAR CRAFT NOT YOUR USUAL FLYING SAUCER NOR CIGAR SHAPED. I WONDER IF WE ARE IN THE TURNING PROCESS. GETTING BACK TO THE ABDUCTEES, THEY ALSO EXPERIENCE THE SAME KIND OF STRANGE REALITY DISTORTION AS MANY FOLK TALES TALK ABOUT. THIS SEEMS TO BE A NEVER ENDING SUBJECT AND YET I FEEL THAT WE ARE NO NEARER THE TRUTH. AS IF ALL THIS IS ONE LARGE GAME OF CAT AND MOUSE.

BY  
STEPHEN MERA

## "MIND, BODY, WALLET".

BY MERVYN GALE.

The event was billed as "Mind, Body, Spirit", but "Wallet, Wallet, Wallet" might have been considered more apt. The vast interior of the G-Mex, a former railway terminus converted into an exhibition centre, had been partitioned off into a maze of individual stalls; they were not, however, your average stalls.

Instead of double-glazing or kitchen appliances, the Manchester punters were being offered enlightenment. Rather than browsing for new caravans or rock memorabilia, people were looking for hidden truths-at a price.

For a start, the seekers after wisdom were expected to shell out three quid to taste the delights of the inner sanctum. On the Friday afternoon we went the admission fee was a mere £1.50. (Perhaps this generosity flowed from an attempt to capitalize on a splashy 'Manchester Evening News' feature about a

Didsbury woman who sees fairies in her garden: both had stalls) Still, as they say, that's fifteen shillings in the old money. Jack Dee tells a joke about how annoying it is to pay 50p to get into a craft fair when the best department stores in the world all seem to be free...

And make no mistake, this was the paranormal equivalent of a craft fair. Once we were inside, we had a leisurely look at the wares on offer. I was looking for Zener cards for telepathy and clairvoyance experiments; Steve wanted books; and Andy wanted a good laugh. As the name of the event suggests, it was aimed pretty squarely at a 'New Age' type of customer. Consequently, the serious end of the paranormal research spectrum was not really represented at all.

There was a stall advertising Kirlian photography, or at least a cheap looking photocopy version.

There were traditional palmists and Tarot readers. There was a highly dubious stall whose owners claimed to be able to photograph your aura, for a handsome fee of £10. A large gaggle of people was in evidence here, all waiting to come away clutching a glossy photo of themselves with an orange smudge near their heads. To be scrupulously fair, you did have the option of a purplish smudge instead. Naturally, there were crystals absolutely everywhere: one would have felt cheated if there weren't.

Mainstream town centre booksellers cashed in by offloading their surplus stocks of Tim Good and Betty Shine and 'Professor' John Mack. 'Commander X' was also on offer: he's the bloke who says that the greys helped the U.S. Army to genetically engineer six-armed, bat-winged commandos to help win Desert Storm; and that Nikola Tesla and Jimi Hendrix were aliens. You pays you money, and you



loses your mind.

More respectably, the Didsbury lady who communes with the faery-folk was there too, as promised. She was smiling as if she had just returned from the everlasting sunshine of Magonia, as well she might. She was doing a brisk trade in T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of herself.

Just when it appeared that we were awash in a sea of techno-hippies and unemployed aromatherapists, we espied a familiar little island gleaming on the horizon - a place of balm and contentment. A place dear to the hearts of ufologists everywhere; and fuelled entirely by 'prayer batteries'.

Yes! The Aetherius Society was represented at this August gathering. The impeccably sober-suited minions of the 'Reverend' George King were there, fielding anxious queries from passers-by unfamiliar with their exotic cosmology, and perhaps confused by George's plethora of self-conferred degrees and qualifications. Whether the questions came from wind-up merchants or disorientated Christian fundamentalists, they were

fielded with equal aplomb. Its good to know our man in the interplanetary parliament is still working so selflessly on all our behalfs. I did my duty, and added £3.50 to the coffers for a copy of the masters 1958 classic "Life On The Planets". Go to it, George. Let off a prayer battery for N.A.R.O. If you fancy a little break from the daily grind, you could do worse than check out the buildings of the interplanetary parliament, which are "beneath the surface of the planet Saturn, and quite extensive", and which exist in blithe defiance of anything N.A.S.A. says, or does.

Back on Earth, or 'Terra', the crop circle enthusiasts were represented by Marcus Allen, distributor of 'Nexus' Magazine UK, resplendent in tinted pictogram design sweatshirt. I expressed amusement at their continued existence in the face of the fraudulent nature of their subject, demonstrated time and time again in recent years. This was unwise as he accused me of being a member of C.S.I.C.O.P, the insanely 'skeptical' American troupe of clowns fronted by James 'the amazing'

Randi. "That James Randi's an idiot!" I laughed in reply, and turned around. Facing me was a balding gent with glasses and a close cropped beard, clad in black. He smiled inscrutably, and glanced at the 'croppie' propaganda on offer. He was a dead ringer for Randi himself! I almost died on the spot, and it serves me right.

By the time we left the G-Mex, our wallets were lighter, but our minds were, I suppose, slightly expanded all the same. I didn't find any Zener cards - they're much too sensible-but Steve found a copy of the House of Lords UFO debate; and Andy had a good laugh. Oh, and we did get to hear a blissed-out, ponytailed, superannuated Californian hippy play a long, flat note on a conch shell. As Aetherius himself tells George King from Mars Sector Six:-

*"Before I vacate Transmission Orbit, I would like to give you the benefit of my invocation."*

by  
Mervyn Gale

## CURIOSITY CORNER

BY CAROLE MORSE

Margaret, her daughter Lynne and Lynne's daughter Gemma, live together in Droylsden, Manchester. Margaret's husband had died a few years previous and they were planning to visit his grave. Just as they were leaving the house, the telephone rang. A man on the other end said "Hello, is Gemma there its her grandad." Margaret was dumbstruck, as this was the person whose grave they were about to visit! After a few seconds of disbelief, they realised it wasn't a voice from the grave, but just a wrong number. What are the chances that someone should call them at that moment, i.e. as they were leaving for the grave, looking for someone with the same name as one of the occupiers with the same relationship to them?

A few weeks later Margaret was making a telephone call to some friends in another part of Manchester. A man answered the telephone identifying himself as her friend. They chatted for a while about their respective families and then Margaret asked him about his son. "Son?" he said "I don't have son!". It was then that Margaret realised she had got the wrong number - but had managed to call someone with the same name, with a wife of the same name and with a friend called Margaret with a similar family!



During a recent NARO investigation a couple from Stockport were witnessing some strange activities. After having items going a miss for several months the couple got in touch with us. Later through interviewing we found that there had been cold spots felt in the house and objects appearing from nowhere. The main incident that took place was the discovery of someone's underwear which was strung across the bedposts. Mrs. Hill the house owner agreed with her husband that they were not the owner of the mislaid underpants. After a series of vigils it was discovered that the family were witnessing what seemed to be the effects of a haunting. A NARO team went in along with a medium and were able to assist the couple. Since then no more incidents have taken place. But it does go to show that women cannot always blame their partners for the appearance of underwear that doesn't belong. If anyone out there has witnessed a similar thing then please let me know.

Whilst watching the television football scores NARO investigators were deep in conversation and the subject of NASA came up. A quick glance at the screen revealed that a Mr. Neil and a Mr. Armstrong had scored.....Ironical or what!

A recent investigation into missing shoes revealed the culprit. NARO investigator found that foxes were liable for taking shoes out of someone's porch. Of course the witness thought there was a more paranormal explanation when she opened the front door only to reveal several shoes with one of them missing.....I wonder if that's where all the odd socks end up!



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PUBLISHED BY NEWSTAND PUBLICATIONS, OFFICE BLOCK ONE, SOUTHLINK, BUSINESS PARK, SOUTHLINK, OLDHAM, OL4-1DE, U.K.

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## Presence of the Paranormal

BY MICHELLE HICKMAN

Although in the past I have had numerous anomalous experiences within my own home, I encountered my first apparition whilst visiting a friend's house on what was thought to be a seemingly pleasant, and uneventful afternoon. I regularly took myself and my small daughter to visit Laura, as she had a girl called Amy of the same age, and the two children would play together whilst we would catch up on the latest events. My daughter Georgia was then only ten months old, and was at that tiring stage of being constantly on the move, therefore it was no surprise when on this particular afternoon, she performed her impeccable Houdini impersonation, and slipped inconspicuously through the front room door.

Laura's home was a large three storey Edwardian house, which as you can imagine had many large rooms and plenty of opportune places for a toddler to hide. I searched all of the downstairs rooms to no

avail, so I then proceeded to the first floor where I located Georgia in Amy's room playing contentedly by herself. I picked her up and walked to the top of the stairs, when I noticed Georgia turn to the landing located at the left hand side of us. She looked visibly distraught and even let out a small shriek, to which I glanced in the same direction.

I witnessed (I am positive by her response that Georgia saw the same) what appeared to be a tall figure which I 'felt' to be male. 'It' was stood just behind the top of the bannister, and was positioned so that we could see it's front. The figure was stationary and struck me as being standing to what I estimated as being well over six feet tall. (I gauged it's height against my own, as I am only relatively small at five feet two inches.) It was also very dark, in fact almost black, which meant I was unable to distinguish any detailed features, perceiving only the general outline of the figure. Its composition was dense enough to black out the

background, but at the same time it failed to be as solid or 'real' as a person. I also experienced an overpowering sense of intimidation, almost as though it did not want me to be in the house.

I stood in shock for a few seconds taking in the spectacle, and then reacting in the usual way I let out a scream and bolted down the stairs. Laura shot out of the front room, believing that something serious had happened to Georgia, only to be confronted by myself at the bottom of the stairs in a state of distress. Indeed the figure, and its overwhelming sense of menace remained with myself and my daughter over the next few days, as we were both in extremely sensitive and emotional states for no other explicable reason.

Prior to my experience, there had been vague references by Laura and her family that the house was being haunted, but it was not until after, that I was informed of the extensive activity that the house and its occupants had been subjected to. I will briefly outline the history of the house. Laura's parents, Valerie and Frank, had purchased the house twenty three years previously as they needed a spacious home to bring up their six children. By 1990, their children had all flown the nest so Valerie and Frank sold the property to their daughter Laura, and her husband Jonathon, who had plans to modernise the house as it had fallen into partial disrepair.

Valerie recounted to me a



curios, but revealing anecdote which she felt, later she should have taken notice of, as it would have given her a clue as to the nature of her future at the house. The couple who sold the property to Valerie and her husband owned the house for only two months before they hastily put it back on the market. When Valerie went to view the house, she found the people extremely 'nervous', especially the woman, who was abnormally anxious for them to purchase.

When asked why they were so keen to leave after such a brief period, they replied that they "enjoyed moving, and didn't like staying in the same place for too long!" This explanation seems rather comical as when Valerie and Frank decided to buy the house, the other couple moved to a property on the same road! One wonders why the people were so desperate to leave the house, as it is evident that it was the house which was 'unsuitable' and not the area.

Valerie admits that she herself expressed a wish to vacate the house after their first month living there, as a multitude of unaccountable incidents occurred, accompanied again, with a sense of constantly being observed, and not being welcome in the house. However, Frank was adamant that it was all in Valerie's imagination and that they were staying where they were.

Over the proceeding years inexplicable things have happened to practically every

person who has lived at the house. For example, electrical equipment switches on and off for no reason, the toilet flushes by itself, there are footsteps all over the house, objects disappear and reappear in the unlikely places, and unaccountable noises occur such as hangers in the wardrobe rattling by themselves. Then there have been more personal contacts such as taps on the shoulder, blowing down ears, and being touched whilst in bed, to name a few.

Moreover, it transpires that I am not the first person to witness the spectacle of the 'tall, dark, male figure' and that all the sightings have happened like mine, on the first floor landing. Laura's brother David, who was only eleven at the time of his sighting, was walking down the top flight of stairs which lead onto the landing. He perceived what he described as a 'tall, dark, man' walking into the bathroom, which then promptly disappeared! Consequently, he ran down to the front room petrified, with Valerie remembering that "he was literally white with fear". Another time a friend of the family was staying at the house one night, when he suddenly awoke to find a 'tall, dark, man' standing at the foot of the bed. Once more he reported to have felt threatened by the presence, almost as though he was not supposed to be there. Allegedly, the 'tall, dark, man' visited Laura's other brother James at night also, as when he was eight years old he confided in his mother that the man often used to stand in his bedroom doorway,

although he now has no memory of this.

So just exactly who is this tall black figure and why does he persist in making his presence known? When I suggested to Laura that she should bring in a paranormal investigator to attempt to solve the mystery, she was worried that by doing so this might in some way upset the presence and instigate more malevolent activity, as the incidents seemed momentarily to be in decline. However, it is interesting to note that when Laura's daughter Amy was between the ages of two and four, she claimed to have a 'friend' called Alec, who she said was, 'stabbed and burnt with a candle'. He visited her regularly, and in her innocent words, "come down from heaven to the attic, then walks down the stairs on to the landing to see me". This is coincidental as the top floor and the first floor landing are the sites of the most of the activity. I must stress that Laura has always been overtly cautious to ensure that Amy never heard the wild speculation, or 'ghost talk' which followed unexplained events.

In finishing my narrative, I will tell you that during December 1995, Laura and Jonathan decided to sell the house, the disturbances being contributory to their decision. Laura failed to mention to the new couple about the 'unpaying guest' and she reports that when she sees them in passing and inquires after the house, they reply as having no problems.

Whether or not they are being truthful, or whether in reality the presence was associated with Laura's family and not in fact the house itself, remains to be seen!

Michelle Hickman.

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# THE URMSTON ENCOUNTER

by Alicia Leigh

It was Christmas Day 1994 when Robert Shawe decided to break the age old tradition of spending the evening with friends and family. As a rule Robert would have been the life and soul of the party, but things were different that year, the abundance of Christmas cheer didn't boost his spirits. He spent the afternoon contemplating his mood, he thought that work pressures could be the cause, after all being a postman did not give him much of a social life. Robert's sister Carol phoned in the late afternoon trying to persuade him to join the family party being held later that evening. He did not share his sister's enthusiasm and declined the invitation explaining that he had decided to go elsewhere. Robert then ordered a taxi for 10.00 p.m., his destination, Manchester, to try out the City's night life for a change. At 9.30 p.m. Robert checked the time

and settled down on the Chesterfield sofa to watch television until his taxi arrived. It was approaching 9.45 p.m. when he looked out of the flat window, as Robert looked skyward he noticed an aircraft at a high altitude. As he watched, the 'aircraft' suddenly dropped thousands of feet within seconds, Robert thought he was going to witness a horrific disaster but he couldn't have been further from the truth. The 'aircraft' was now hovering about a hundred feet above a clearing which is adjacent to his flat. Robert looked at the scene and realised that he'd never seen an aircraft quite like this one, in fact it did not conform to anything recognisable at all. The column shaped craft had on it five red lights in a sideways on 'W' formation which were intensely bright, yet they did not light the area nor the trees. As the craft descended into the clearing Robert noticed that the

trees remained undisturbed and there didn't appear to be any sound coming from the strange object. Robert grabbed his jacket and without apprehension he ran out of the flat, down the stairs and into the night air. 'I want to see this thing close' he thought as he approached the entrance to the clearing. When he'd trodden the first few feet of concrete which led to the soft ground beyond, Robert was overcome by an innate kind of fear. He stopped in his tracks as the hairs on the back of his neck stood on end, what am I doing he thought. Hundreds of negative thoughts entered his head as he turned tail and hot footed it back to the safe environment of his home. Robert shut the door and heaved a sigh of relief as he sat down once again and waited for the taxi. His next recollection was of waking in his bed the following morning. Strange he thought, 'I can't remember what happened yesterday', he did, however, remember seeing the strange craft. Linda, a friend and neighbour, rapped on the door making Robert, who was deep in thought, jump at the harsh sound which had shattered the silence. He was so puzzled by the previous nights events that he immediately told Linda about it. At first she thought Robert was joking but she could see that her friend

was being deadly serious. So much so that she accompanied Robert to the clearing to see if they could find anything. They searched the ground, not really knowing what they were looking for, when they stumbled on a large area of flattened reeds. The reeds were all facing West and were coated in a black silt like substance. Linda pointed out that the area was completely dry, yet the ground beyond was rather muddy following the rain. Robert estimated the area to be fifty feet in diameter and was an elliptical shape, rather like an egg. In the months following, Robert had some unusual dreams involving himself being manipulated by humanoid type creatures. He was rather disturbed by this and felt, on a couple of occasions at least that these were actual events rather than a product of his imagination. Some nine months later Robert contacted me, via a local newspaper, with his strange story.

In Issue 5, Read part two of The Urmston Encounter.

Analysis.

Hypnosis.

and much much more.

BY ALICIA LEIGH

## Conrad & Jasper



## IN THE NEXT ISSUE

THE HISTORY OF THE POLTERGEIST  
PART TWO OF THE URMSTON ENCOUNTER

THE BOLTON MEN IN BLACK  
CONFERENCE RATING  
TOE NAILS AND TEETH  
REVIEWS

AND MUCH MUCH MORE



# ENCOUNTER IN BRISTOL

BY ANDREW BLUNN

On Sunday 14th December, Bristol played host to the multimedia experience of the Encounters Conference. Andrew Blunn went along to see what all the fuss was about.....

The sun was still rising as we turned left into the litter strewn grounds of the church. This was our second attempt at reaching our destination, our first being thwarted by the local one-way system. Our goal was the Trinity church on the outskirts of Bristol, a partially renovated relic, long since deserted by its congregation. Instead a new congregation was arriving, a congregation of UFO worshippers, believers in a different God.

It was cold as we entered and climbed the concrete steps to the first floor where our stall would be located. Where exactly it would be we had no idea, as we had hastily booked our place only a few days before. We did think however, that we would be in a less than advantageous position, shoved to the back like an unwanted toy or an embarrassing piece of clothing. In fact, we couldn't have been more wrong. We had a full view of the stage, but better still we were the first stall that the paying masses would encounter when they entered. We stocked our stall with copies of NARO Minded, information

on our organisation and how to join, sighting account forms and copies of books that had been written jointly by Peter Hough and Jenny Randles who were both to be lecturing at the conference. Everything you might expect from a serious paranormal research group. I found I had a few hours to kill until the conference was due to start and so I thought I would check out our competition.

Not surprisingly it was standard conference fare. The adverts for the conference boasted *the largest X-Files merchandise stall anywhere!*, an attribute which didn't impress me in the least. Marcus Allen from *Nexus Magazine* was there, along with the usual entourage of stalls selling *crashed saucer dioramas*, one thing about these that has always puzzled me is how the aliens came to be *outside* the craft? There are no obvious exits and the craft always appears to be intact; obviously they have used their teleportation device to beam themselves into a dramatic location for when they are *recovered*. One could also purchase 'alien

contact cards' - I presume these are similar to business cards with star - system and planet designations as opposed to mobile phone number. Also on display were posters showing the many different spaceships visiting our planet, a sort of *spotters guide to UFOs*. In fact ours was the only stall run by a research organisation, although I did notice members of other organisations mingling with the audience with their little plastic badges and group acronym proudly displayed for all to see. It wasn't surprising then that these other stalls did far better in terms of sales than we did, probably because we, as a group, don't have a *pet belief* in aliens or any other theory for that matter. Apparently there was no room for the scientifically minded research group at this conference; we weren't wasting our time entirely however as a number of people had lengthy conversations with us and we sold some of the books and magazines we had laid out with precision on the table in front.

As far as the speakers were concerned, proceedings began

with Dennis Plunkett of the British Saucer Bureau. The subject of his talk will probably be flogged to death this year - the so called *50 years of Ufology*. It continues to amaze me, and others, that Ufologists treat events that happened before 1947 as though they are less significant than those that occurred after. His discussion got off to a bad start when he discovered he had loaded the slides back-to-front. We were then treated to the standard talk with the *best* cases of the past five decades displayed, the wrong way around, one after another, and believe me there were lots of them, 100 or more. They included those that have since proved explainable such as the ill fated Thomas Mantell who died after taking his aircraft to twice its service ceiling without oxygen whilst chasing what he thought was a strange craft. Plunkett relied on his slides a little too much however, as when they jammed he was lost for words. Eventually he had to flick through them one after the other very rapidly and unfortunately there was no time to ask any questions at the end.

Next to speak was Peter Hough who after the previous hour of tedium was a breath of fresh air. He was discussing his latest case involving a family who have experienced a variety of paranormal incidents from Alien Abduction to Poltergeist activity. Hough argues that it

isn't *nuts and bolts spacecraft* that are responsible for abductions - a statement which resulted in a few shaking heads from this audience of believers. He also argues that there is a link between different aspects of the paranormal and that we are not dealing with separate phenomena but we are in fact dealing with one. It was brave of him to make this statement to this audience, an audience who a few minutes later would give thunderous applause to a Welsh businessman whose company was producing globes, magnetically suspended between the two tips of a crescent moon. The applause was not, however, for the innovation of his product, but for Troggs singer Reg Presley's statement that if this is possible we could soon have *anti-gravity* devices! To suggest that this product, novel as it is, will pave the way for man's manipulation of gravitational fields is ridiculous and yet another example of the pseudo-scientific disease currently running rampant through ufology.

Jenny Randles gave a very interesting talk on the subject of Men in Black and their possible origins, speculating that they are actually from an unknown government department. Her discussion was departure from more recent lectures like the one delivered at the recent LAPIS conference in Lytham, (for review see this issue).

Following her was Colin Andrews, crop circle *expert*.

One wonders how they can continue to investigate crop circles with the number of hoaxes that now perforate the phenomenon.

To finish with, it was the turn of Ex-Air Staff 2A's Nick Pope, *the real life Fox Mulder*, telling us about *the real life X-Files* he came up against during his time at the office. A predictable talk demonstrating how little he actually knows about the subject and proving that just about anyone can claim to be a ufologist if they want.

Amongst such torture was an *editors debate* in which the audience were given the chance to interrogate the editors of some of the countries leading paranormal magazines. Unfortunately the most taxing questions they could come up with were "Have you ever seen a UFO?" and "Do you think the X-Files has had a positive or negative effect on the public as far as paranormal research is concerned?"

Based on recent conferences, I get the impression that I am **not** mixing with people who share the common goal of finding answers to the questions which have perplexed us for many years. This was another such event. I think we need more variety in speakers and opinions in future rather than one theme running through the entire event which was billed as being on the subject of the paranormal but turned out to be a day dominated by the UFO phenomenon.




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## COMMENT CORNER

Peter from Wythenshawe, Manchester wrote in asking, "Do we run an investigators training course for those who can not attend NARO meetings and what does it cost".

Ed's Note.

Dear Peter, NARO are to launch the postal investigators training course. This consists of 20 modules. Also this is free to all NARO members even if they cannot attend regular meetings. We will notify our readers when the launch date is. Watch this space.....Stephen Mera.

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# STRANGE DEATHS

Over the last ten years twenty top British scientists have been killed in suspicious and unusual circumstances whilst working on military related projects. The British government have hardly commented on the matter and it has also had little cover by the media. These deaths have not been tidy in the least yet continued with five more during 1988. I suggest you read the facts and then make your own evaluation.

## The Deaths.

Professor Keith Bowden was experimenting with computer controlled aircraft systems, and advanced computer machines. By 1982 he was regarded as a leading expert in this field. His brilliant career was to end in dramatic fashion. Keith Bowden died at the age of 46. He was the co-founder of the highly acclaimed Computer Sciences Department at Essex University, which was nearby to his country home and family of three. Bowden had just left a function in London and was heading home when his car suddenly left the road and crashed into a nearby bridge which crossed a disused railway near Witham, Essex. The sudden impact killed Bowden instantly. Later a postmortem revealed that Bowden's blood contained alcohol levels far in excess of the legal limit. So much so that it would of been impossible to even drive. Specialists indicated that the vehicle must have been travelling extremely fast. The verdict was that he had been drinking and had unfortunately had an accident.

Jonathon Walsh (aged 29) 'accidentally' fell from a hotel balcony whilst working in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, during November 1985. Walsh died

instantly after his fall. Walsh was working for British Telecom and was said to have been involved with several secret projects regarding digital communication. Much of his work was behind ultra secret closed doors of B.T.'s Martlesham Heath research site and he also had some involvement with the General Electric Company (G.E.C.). What's most strange is that he was scared of heights and would of certainly not have ventured onto the balcony. Many close friends of Walsh later revealed that they were of the opinion that he was murdered because he had spoke out about a covert British operation regarding communication contacts with the Ivory Coast government in Africa. After the police enquiry the verdict was left open.

Richard Pugh (aged 37) was a single man who was found dead during January 1987. Pugh worked as a Ministry of Defence consultant, his work involved computer designing for the National Telephone Systems (N.T.S.), he was also an expert in digital communication. He was found by a friend dead in his Essex home with a plastic bag over his head. His feet were bound and he had obviously suffocated. The police made an unusual statement when they said, "it was probably the result of a bizarre sexual experiment which went badly wrong". After some time the Ministry of Defence eventually admitted that he had been working on several low-key projects but at the same time they denied that he had been involved with any classified research. His close working friends believe that he may have been killed and that he had worked with computerized warfare systems. The inquest which followed recorded another remarkable verdict, - accidental death. Doctor John Brittan (aged 52) also worked for the Ministry of Defence in London. He was

regarded as an expert engineer and research officer. He worked with advanced NATO tank components, particularly batteries. At the time of his death he was working for the Royal Armaments Research and Development Establishment at Chertsey in Surrey. On January 12th, 1987 John Brittan was found in his vehicle, dead from carbon monoxide poisoning. Interestingly the car engine was not running. At the inquest, the court was told that Doctor Brittan was a happily married man but had serious medical ailments including a severe problem of the throat. This was not enough to convince the court that Brittan took his own life, and an interesting verdict was reached, - accidental death.

Victor Moore (aged 46) worked at the Space and Defence Systems branch as a design engineer in Portsmouth. Again, at the time of his death he too was working on a top-secret project involving satellite tracking which was thought to be for the military. After being suspiciously sacked from his job he was found dead, just four weeks later in February 1987. He had taken a massive overdose. Again Victor Moore was a happily married man and had just been offered a new position with another company. The verdict. Suicide.

Peter Peapell (aged 46) worked for the Royal Military College of Science as a Senior Lecturer in Metallurgy. It has been said that he was involved with extensive classified research relating to armour and testing titanium and its resistance to explosives. Several days after Victor Moore had been found dead, Peapell was travelling home from a party in Oxfordshire (22nd February 1987). The lecturer had been drinking but was, according to police sources, "sober enough to drive home". Whilst on this journey, Peapell heard a 'clunking' noise on the underside of his car. After parking his car in his garage, no one is really certain of what happened next. His wife, Maureen waited up for him but last saw him at 3.00 a.m. and then retired to bed. The disturbing news came when his wife discovered his body. He was found dead under his own car the following morning. Oxfordshire police and CID were perplexed, they could not understand how on earth he had got himself under his car in a most

awkward position. Nevertheless, the inquest heard that he had died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The verdict was left open.

David Sands (aged 38) worked for a company of Easams as a senior satellite projects manager concerning highly sensitive digital communication. He lived with his wife and two children in a small village called Itchen Abbas near Winchester. On the 30th of March 1987 he left his home and was driving down the A33 towards Camberley, Surrey, when he suddenly did a U-turn and continued down a slip road into the nearby county of Hampshire. He carried on for a while then drove his vehicle which at the time was stacked with cans of petrol, head on into the side of a disused 'Little Chef' restaurant at 80 mph. The car exploded on impact and Sands was engulfed in a ball of fire. To this date Mrs. Sands fails to understand her husbands actions. She remembers her husband saying "I will not do anything stupid". Again another verdict left open. An obvious suicide to me.

As you might agree, there seems to be many strange deaths linked to personnel working on secret projects. I could go on to tell you about the other nine deaths within the same year but I think you may have the idea by now. One of the many that died was even found to have placed live wires in his mouth to electrocute himself. Is there a connection between these deaths or are we simply looking at several coincidences. If so then we are still looking at something quite odd. Maybe we will never know, but there will always be the element of conspiracies and espionage with the governmental system. The question is, do we look for it or are the facts present. I'm sure you will agree that it leaves doubt in your mind as to what is the truth.

I would like to finish this article just by stating how sorry we are to loose such good professional researchers that died tragically and if there is foul play at work here we hope one day to find it.

By  
Stephen Mera

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